The Honorable Michael K. Powell Chairman Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I'm writing to urge you to support the proposed merger between EchoStar Communications and Hughes Electronics. I believe the merger holds tremendous potential for my company in Independence, KY which sells EchoStar's DISH Network satellite TV service. The new company will offer a more attractive product to consumers, and this will mean more business for my company.

I can offer local broadcast channels to all of my customers when they subscribe to the DISH Network. This is not the case for retailers in medium and small-sized markets. Currently, EchoStar offers local broadcast service in only 36 television markets. The merger will allow the new company to end the duplication of programming and free up hundreds of channels allowing consumers in all 210 television markets across the country to receive their local broadcast channels. As a DISH Network retailer, I am very excited by this development because satellite TV will be perceived nationally as real alternative to cable.

For my customers who do enjoy access to high-speed DSL and cable Internet service, this merger will result in increased competition in the broadband market, because the new EchoStar will provide an affordable high speed Internet access service via satellite. This would help drive down prices of the DSL and cable providers. For those living beyond the reach of cable and DSL wires, the new EchoStar would be their only chance of affordable high speed Internet service.

This merger will increase satellite TV's ability to respond competitively to the roll out of digital cable, forcing cable companies to respond in a variety of ways including accelerating their digital upgrades and extending their wires out to reach those customers they currently do not serve. The resulting expansion in digital capabilities across the board will increase competition generally, will drive hardware upgrades for consumers, and drive retail traffic and sales nationwide.

EchoStar retailers like me will gain the ability to offer the popular sports packages that would otherwise only be available on DIRECTV, once the merger is completed. This additional programming will increase customer demand, and improve sales.

The merged company will provide consumers with a lot of new services, but the availability of an affordable, nationwide high-speed Internet access product in the near future is the most important one to me. It is for this reason that I urge you to support the merger of EchoStar and Hughes Electronics.

Sincerely,

Thomas Taylor 2253 Bluegrass Place Independence, KY 41051